

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 11-21 remain in this application. Claims 6 and 10 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Claim 21 has been added.

A. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that in the Office action dated April 4, 2005, claims 11-20 were identified as being allowed. Moreover, claims 2-8 and 10 were deemed to contain patentable subject matter, but were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the features of original claim 6. Claim 7 has been amended to change its dependency from cancelled claim 6 to amended claim 1. In addition, new claim 21 has been drafted to incorporate all the limitations of original claim 1 and the patentable subject matter of dependent claim 10.

In view of the indication that original claims 6 and 10 were patentable over the prior art when combined with the features of their base claims, Applicant submits that amended claim 1 and its dependent claims and new claim 21 are in an allowable condition.

B. Patentability of Claim 1

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sanderson, U.S. Pat. No. 4,790,230. Specifically, Sanderson discloses a low-profile keyboard device and system for recording and scoring music.

In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 6, so as to describe a device that includes a means for sensing positions of pedals of the piano and generating electrical signals indicative of displacements of said pedals.

Applicant asserts that a material difference exists between amended claim 1 and the cited prior art. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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C. Patentability of Claim 21

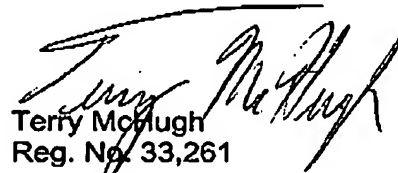
New independent claim 21 combines all features of original claim 1 with the patentable subject matter of dependent claim 10 to describe a device that includes an array of signal generators mounted to a housing to monitor activities of a plurality of keys of a keyboard and a flash detector configured to detect light flashes in an area of the piano and to momentarily inhibit data from the signal generators as a response thereto.

Support for the amendment can be found in Paragraph [0038] of the specification as originally filed, wherein a flash detector 124 signals the computer 116 when an external flash of light occurs, so that the flash is less likely to interfere with proper operations. As one possibility, the computer may respond to the identification of a flash by momentarily inhibiting data from the photosensors 110.

Since Sanderson does not teach or suggest the combination of features described in independent claim 21, Applicant asserts that the claim is in a condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. In the case that any issues regarding this application can be resolved expeditiously via a telephone conversation, Applicant invites the Examiner to call Terry McHugh at (650) 969-8458.

Respectfully submitted,



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